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WISCONSIN STATE SENATOR

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Governor Walker Signs Dispatcher Assisted CPR Bill

MADISON, WI...Today, Governor Walker signed Assembly Bill 654 authored by Senator Jerry Petrowski (*R-Marathon*) and Representative Treig Pronschinske (*R-Mondovi*). This bill ensures that all callers, no matter where they are in the state of Wisconsin, are able to receive instructions from a dispatcher on how to perform CPR while EMS/first responders are in route.

“Dispatchers are really the first point of contact in our emergency response system, and because of that, they are critical to the overall chain of survival,” said Sen. Petrowski. “I have no doubt that this legislation will save lives throughout Wisconsin, but it will be especially important to the rural areas of our state where it can take longer for first responders to arrive.”

AB 654 requires public safety answering points (PSAP) to provide, in appropriate circumstances, telephonic assistance on administering CPR. The bill also requires the Department of Health Services to distribute grants or money for the purpose of training dispatchers to provide CPR instruction over the phone. Under the bill, every PSAP must either 1) have dispatchers trained and certified to provide telephonic instruction on administering CPR to a person who has called 911; or 2) transfer callers to a PSAP that can provide such instruction.

“This is an exciting day for our state. The dispatcher assisted CPR bill helps improve the health and safety of all residents,” said Brad Gast, resident of Wausau and member of the American Heart Association Wisconsin Advocacy Committee. “By coaching bystanders with the ability to perform immediate CPR, it can double or even triple the chances of survival. Thanks to the leadership of Senator Petrowski, the passage of this bill will help save lives.”

“While working to guide this bill through the legislative process, we have had the opportunity to hear a lot of moving testimony from real people about why this simple requirement is so important,” said Sen. Petrowski. “We worked closely with the American Heart Association on this bill, so to stand alongside them and see it signed by the Governor today was a very proud moment.”

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